



# La Barranca Fire Update

Date: June 2, 2006, 8 p.m.

**Fire Name:** La Barranca Fire

**Time/Date Started:** Thursday, June 1, 2006 – 2 p.m.

**Location:** Oak Creek Village; The La Barranca Fire started on La Barranca Drive in the Village of Oak Creek, south of Sedona and east of Highway 179. The fire started on private property and moved onto the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. It is now burning most actively in the Munds Mountain Wilderness.

**Cause:** Human-caused. The La Barranca Fire was caused by a fence company that was grinding on a metal fence post on private property.

**Fuels:** Grass, brush, pinyon-juniper woodland

**Size:** Total Size – 836 acres

**% Contained:** 50 %

**Resources Committed:** 8 Type 1 crews (hotshot crews), 10 Type 2 crews, 4 helicopters (1 heavy, 2 medium, 1 light), airtankers available if needed, 6 engines, 5 water tenders. Total personnel = 518

**Estimated Cost to Date:** \$300,000

**Predicted Weather:** Relative humidity levels dropped to 6 percent today. Conditions are expected to continue to be hot and dry tomorrow with a very slight chance of thunderstorm activity.

## **Structures:**

Structures have been lost:

- 1 primary residence destroyed
- 1 partially-damaged residence
- 1 guest house/shop destroyed
- 3 outbuildings destroyed

From Estate Circle up canyon in the fire area, 158 total structures were saved.

**Evacuation Center:** There are an estimated 200 evacuees from the Pine Valley subdivision. The evacuation order remains in effect for Pine Valley residents. However, much progress was made today in protecting private structures. Fire managers will reevaluate conditions in the Pine Valley subdivision tomorrow morning in order to determine if it is safe for residents to return. A meeting for evacuees will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. in the Red Cross Evacuation Center, which is located at the Big Park Community School. To contact the evacuation center directly, please call 928-220-2186.

**Summary:** The fire's movement uphill slowed considerably today, in part due to more moderate winds. Overnight tonight, engines will patrol the Pine Valley subdivision. Yavapai County Sheriff's Department personnel will also patrol evacuated areas to ensure security of homes. Tomorrow, firefighters will continue structure protection and line construction.

**Cooperating Agencies:** Yavapai County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, City of Sedona fire and police departments, Red Cross

## **Closures:**

Trails closed – Woods Canyon, Jacks Canyon, Hot Loop, Munds Mountain

Roads closed – The section of Schnebly Hill Road from I-17 to the gate at Merry-Go-Round

**Restrictions:** As fire danger increases, additional fire restrictions go into effect on the Coconino National Forest Monday, June 5, 2006, at 8 a.m., prohibiting activities which could cause a wildfire.

- Campfires—including charcoal fires—are prohibited in all areas, including developed campgrounds. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters are allowed.
- Operating a chainsaw is prohibited between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. These restrictions apply to both personal use with a firewood permit and commercial operations.

Also prohibited:

- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or developed recreation site.
- Welding.
- Using an explosive.
- Operating any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arrester.
- Operating a motor vehicle off National Forest System roads, except when parking in an area cleared of vegetation, and except in the Cinder Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area north of Flagstaff.
- Fireworks are always prohibited on national forest lands.

Violations are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. These restrictions will remain in place until enough precipitation falls to decrease fire danger. For further information about fire restrictions on the Coconino National Forest, visit [www.coconinoforest.us](http://www.coconinoforest.us) or call 928-527-3600. The latest fire restriction information on public lands across Arizona can be found at [www.azfireinfo.com](http://www.azfireinfo.com) and <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/> or by calling toll-free 1-877-864-6985.

**La Barranca Fire Contact Numbers: 928-204-6538, 928-606-7490, 928-606-7561, 928-606-7578**